

## Arcamo, Judith

---

**From:** sjokeeffe@gmail.com on behalf of Stephanie O'Keeffe [stephanie@okeeffe.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2009 7:24 AM  
**To:** Arcamo, Judith  
**Cc:** Seaman, Katherine  
**Subject:** e-mail and attachments for packet  
**Attachments:** Health Care Sign on letter.pdf; sign on memo.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi Judith --

Please print out this e-mail and its attachments for the 8/24 packet. Thank you!

Stephanie

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Select Board <[SelectBoard@amherstma.gov](mailto:SelectBoard@amherstma.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Aug 18, 2009 at 1:20 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Sign on Letter in Support of Comprehensive Health Care Reform  
**To:** "Weiss, Gerald" <[WeissG@amherstma.gov](mailto:WeissG@amherstma.gov)>, "Brewer, Alisa" <[avbrewer@comcast.net](mailto:avbrewer@comcast.net)>, [stephanie@okeeffe.com](mailto:stephanie@okeeffe.com), [dstein@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:dstein@mtholyoke.edu), "Shaffer, Larry" <[ShafferL@amherstma.gov](mailto:ShafferL@amherstma.gov)>, "Hayden, Aaron" <[aahayden@amherst.edu](mailto:aahayden@amherst.edu)>

-----  
**From:** USCM/Cochran[[SMTP:ACTIONALERT@USMAYORS.ORG](mailto:SMTP:ACTIONALERT@USMAYORS.ORG)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2009 1:01:34 PM  
**To:** Select Board  
**Subject:** Sign on Letter in Support of Comprehensive Health Care Reform  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**



## THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

**TO:** The Mayor  
**FROM:** Tom Cochran  
Executive Director and CEO  
**DATE:** August 18, 2009

**RE: Sign on Letter in Support of Comprehensive Health Care Reform**

Attached is a memo from your President Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and the lead Mayors on Health care reform for the Conference of Mayors. We are asking you to sign on to the attached congressional letter urging congress to pass comprehensive health care reform. We need every mayor to support our efforts. If you have any questions or need background information please contact Conference Staff Crystal Swann at 202-861-6707 or [cswann@usmayors.org](mailto:cswann@usmayors.org).

Please sign me on to the Health Care Reform letter.

Mayor's Name:

City:

*Attachments*

-----

To remove this e-mail address from this list, please go to <http://usmayors.org/contactme> and change your city's contact information accordingly.



## THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

August 18, 2009

Dear Representative/Senator

The undersigned Mayors of cities across the country urge you to pass comprehensive Health Care reform this year. During the US Conference of Mayors meeting in June, mayors unanimously adopted policy calling for the immediate enactment of comprehensive health care reform that will:

- Reduce long-term growth of health care costs for families, individuals, businesses and government
- Protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs  
Guarantee choice of doctors, hospitals and health plans and the choice of a private or public health care plan
- Invest in prevention and wellness
- Improve patient safety and quality of care for all Americans
- Maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job
- End barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions
- Eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in government health programs
- Hold insurance and drug companies accountable by ensuring that people are not overcharged for prescription drugs, or discriminated against for pre-existing conditions.
- Support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care, and so that surge capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and so that the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system.

As Mayors, we are on the frontlines of the health care crisis with high rates of the uninsured in our cities and rapidly escalating health care costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers. City governments spend billions of dollars to provide health coverage to millions of employees, dependents, and retirees, and rising health costs affect cities' ability to provide other city services.

We can no longer let the perfect be the enemy of the essential. We need health reform now. Since 2000, employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have nearly doubled, and health care premiums have grown three times faster than wages.

Even for people with health care, all it takes is one stroke of bad luck to become one of the nearly 46 million uninsured – or the millions who have health care, but cannot afford it. Every day we hear about families who are struggling with the rising costs of health care that threatens their financial stability, leaves them exposed to higher premiums and deductibles, and puts them at risk for a possible loss of health insurance as employers struggle to provide adequate health care coverage. This issue cannot wait.

As Mayors, we urge you to enact comprehensive health reform this year.

Sincerely,





## THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

To: The Mayor

From: Greg Nickels,  
Mayor of Seattle  
President

David Cicilline,  
Mayor of Providence  
Chair, USCM Children, Health and Human Service Committee

Gavin Newsom,  
Mayor of San Francisco  
Co-Chair, USCM Health Care Reform Task Force

**Subject: Sign-on Letter Calling on Congress to Pass Comprehensive Health Care Reform Legislation.**

We are writing today to ask you to sign a letter calling for Congress and President Obama to pass comprehensive Health Care reform this year. During the Annual Meeting in Providence, we unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Administration's health care reform principles. Now Congress and the President need to hear directly from mayors. Attached is the sign on letter.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is at the forefront of the current debate, working to advance the interests of local governments who are on the frontlines of today's most pressing health care needs. We have had two conference calls with the White House, Congress and mayors from across the country about taking action on the local level for health care reform through resolutions, op-eds and public events.

Now, our leaders in Washington, DC need to hear our collective voices for comprehensive health care reform. Sign the letter for health care reform. Our goal is for 500 mayors to sign our letter during the August recess.

**To sign onto the letter, please return the form below by close of business, September 5, 2009 to the USCM Health Reform Task Force staffer Crystal Swann at [cswann@usmayors.org](mailto:cswann@usmayors.org) or fax at 202-293-2352. If you have questions please don't hesitate to call her at 202-861-6707.**

In addition, if your city has passed a health care resolution or placed an op-ed, please also share them with USCM staff. We will be certain to get copies of your resolutions and op-eds to members on Capitol Hill and the Administration.

Together, we can work to improve the health and lives of all Americans.

Please sign me on the Health Care Reform letter:

Mayor's Name:

City: